

101 English Idioms Explained: A Comprehensive Guide to Master Figurative Language



101 English Idioms Explained - Volume 1 by George Sandford

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Welcome to the fascinating realm of English idioms, where words take on new meanings, often surprising and delightful. Idioms are colorful expressions that add depth, nuance, and a touch of humor to our speech. They are woven into our everyday language, enriching our conversations and making them more expressive. This comprehensive guide will embark you on an extraordinary linguistic journey to uncover the origins, meanings, and usage of 101 English idioms. By the end of this exploration, you will have expanded your vocabulary, enhanced your communication skills, and gained a deeper appreciation for the richness and creativity of the English language.

A-F

1. A dime a dozen

Meaning: Very common or ordinary; not valuable.

Example: "Good lawyers are a dime a dozen, but finding a great one is like finding a needle in a haystack."

Alt attribute: Image of a pile of coins with a single dime highlighted.

2. Beat around the bush

Meaning: To avoid talking directly about something; to be indirect or evasive.

Example: "Stop beating around the bush and tell me what you really think."

Alt attribute: Image of a person standing behind a large bush.

3. Bite the bullet

Meaning: To accept an unpleasant or difficult task or situation with courage and determination.

Example: "I knew it was going to be painful, but I had to bite the bullet and get the surgery."

Alt attribute: Image of a person biting down on a bullet.

4. Break a leg

Meaning: To wish someone good luck, especially before a performance or competition.

Example: "I'm so nervous, but thanks for the 'break a leg.'"

Alt attribute: Image of a person snapping a leg in two.

5. Burn the midnight oil

Meaning: To stay up late working or studying.

Example: "I had to burn the midnight oil to finish my essay on time."

Alt attribute: Image of a person working late at night with an oil lamp.

6. Call it a day

Meaning: To end or stop something for the day.

Example: "It's getting late, let's call it a day."

Alt attribute: Image of a person closing a book or laptop.

G-L

7. Get cold feet

Meaning: To lose courage or confidence, especially at the last moment.

Example: "I was so excited about the interview, but then I got cold feet and canceled."

Alt attribute: Image of a person with cold feet.

8. Give someone the cold shoulder

Meaning: To ignore or reject someone.

Example: "She's been giving me the cold shoulder ever since I told her the truth."

Alt attribute: Image of a person turning their shoulder away from someone.

9. Hit the nail on the head

Meaning: To say or do something exactly right or appropriate.

Example: "You hit the nail on the head when you said that he was a hypocrite."

Alt attribute: Image of a person hammering a nail into a piece of wood.

10. Keep your chin up

Meaning: To stay positive and hopeful, even when things are difficult.

Example: "I know it's tough right now, but keep your chin up and things will get better."

Alt attribute: Image of a person looking up with a determined expression.

11. Let sleeping dogs lie

Meaning: To avoid stirring up trouble or reopening old wounds.

Example: "Let sleeping dogs lie and don't bring up the past again."

Alt attribute: Image of a sleeping dog.

12. Look before you leap

Meaning: To consider the consequences before acting.

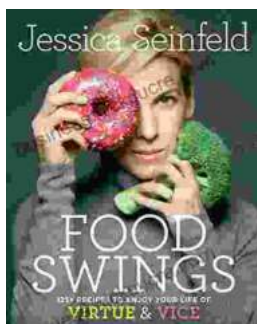
Example: "Don't rush into anything, look before you leap."



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